

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01812 211358Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7076
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 01812

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR IR UK
SUBJ: IRAN-BRITISH RELATIONS

REF TEHRAN 1621

BRITISH AMBASSADOR PARSONS TOLD CHARGE THAT UPON HIS RETURN FROM CONSULTATIONS IN LONDON LAST WEEK HE HAD HAD A ROUGH TWO-HOUR SESSION WITH THE SHAH ABOUT THE SHAH'S GRIEVANCES AGAINST THE BBC, THE BRITISH PRESS, AND THE UK IN GENERAL. PARSONS EXPLAINED TO THE SHAH AT SOME LENGTH THE STEPS HE HAD TAKEN TO INFORM BBC MANAGEMENT AND OTHER OPINION LEADERS OF THE SERIOUS DAMAGE CONTINUING CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT IRAN WAS HAVING ON BRITISH INTERESTS. WHILE THE SHAH APPARENTLY WAS NOT ENTIRELY MOLLIFIED, HE APPARENTLY INDICATED TO PARSONS THAT HE WOULD AWAIT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND LOOKED FOR EVIDENCE THAT PARSONS' REPRESENTATIONS WERE HAVING SOME SALUTARY EFFECT. PARRONS DID NOT SAY WHETHER THE SHAH HAD THREATENED TO RETALIATE BY CANCELLING MAJOR PURCHASING ORDERS WITH THE UK, INCLUDING POSSIBLY CHIEFTAN TANKS (PARA 3, REFTEL). PARSONS HAS TAKEN SOME COMFORT FROM THE FACT THAT IRAN HAS ASKED THE BRITISH TO REPRESENT IRANIAN INTERESTS IN KENYA FOLLOWING THE RECENT BREAK IN IRAN-KENYAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BELIEVING IT TO BE SOME SLIGHT EVIDENCE THAT ENGLAND IS
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NOT YET TOTALLY BEYOND THE PALE.
MIKLOS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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